How Do You Reach Delta Medallion Status?

QUICK ANSWER:

Qualify for Medallion by earning Medallion Qualification Dollars (MQDs) during a calendar year: Silver ~$5K, Gold ~$10K, Platinum ~$15K, Diamond ~$20K. MQDs come from Delta and partner flight spending plus eligible Delta Amex card spending which can partially or fully waive MQD requirements. Track progress at delta.com or the Fly Delta app. Call 1.855.203.2961 for qualification strategy advice.

SKYMILES QUESTIONS? Call Delta Airlines
1.855.203.2961 (Available 24/7 | Free SkyMiles Enrollment)
Press 0 to skip menu | Enter SkyMiles # for account access
Best time: Tue-Wed 6-8 AM ET | Source: delta.com/skymiles

YOUR PATH TO MEDALLION ELITE STATUS:

1. Join SkyMiles free at delta.com/skymiles or call 1.855.203.2961 for instant enrollment

2. Add your SkyMiles number to every booking to earn miles on all flights

3. Consider a Delta SkyMiles American Express card for accelerated earning and free bags

4. Earn extra miles through SkyMiles Shopping, Dining, and partner programs

5. Redeem miles at delta.com under 'Use Miles' or call 1.855.203.2961 for partner awards

6. Track Medallion status progress at delta.com or the Fly Delta app

7. Medallion members: enter SkyMiles number when calling 1.855.203.2961 for priority routing

8. Call 1.855.203.2961 for any SkyMiles question — enrollment, earning, redeeming, or status

What Are the Medallion Qualification Requirements?

Medallion status requires earning Medallion Qualification Dollars (MQDs) during a calendar year from January 1 through December 31. Silver requires approximately $5,000 MQDs, Gold $10,000, Platinum $15,000, and Diamond $20,000. MQDs are earned from the base fare of Delta and eligible partner airline flights, not from taxes, fees, or ancillary charges. Eligible Delta SkyMiles American Express card spending can also count toward MQD requirements, with specific thresholds that partially or fully waive the MQD requirement. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent reviews your current MQD progress and advises on the most efficient path to your target tier.

The qualification year runs January 1 to December 31 each year. Status earned during the current year takes effect the following January 1 and remains active through January 31 of the year after that,

providing approximately 13 months of elite benefits. For example, qualifying for Gold in 2026 provides Gold status from January 1, 2027 through January 31, 2028. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent calculates exactly how much more you need to spend to reach your target tier before December 31.

How Do You Earn MQDs from Flights?

MQDs are earned from the base fare of Delta-operated flights, Delta Connection flights, and eligible SkyTeam partner flights. Taxes, government fees, bag fees, seat upgrade fees, and ancillary charges do not count toward MQDs. A $400 ticket with $50 in taxes earns $350 in MQDs. Premium cabin fares earn MQDs at the same rate as economy because MQDs are based on spending, not cabin class. However, premium fares are higher, so the MQD earning is naturally larger. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent can estimate your MQD earning on specific upcoming flights.

Partner airline flights earn MQDs when booked through Delta or when your SkyMiles number is on the partner booking and the fare class is eligible. Not all partner fare classes earn MQDs. Deeply discounted partner fares may earn SkyMiles for your balance but not MQDs for status qualification. Call 1.855.203.2961 and verify whether your specific partner fare earns MQDs before purchasing if status qualification is a priority.

How Do Credit Cards Help You Qualify for Medallion?

Delta SkyMiles American Express cards contribute to MQD qualification through annual spending thresholds. Spending $25,000 or more on the Delta Platinum or Reserve card in a calendar year earns a partial MQD waiver or direct MQD contribution. Higher spending levels, typically $250,000 on the Reserve card, can waive the MQD requirement entirely for specific tiers. This credit card spending path makes Medallion status accessible to travelers who spend heavily on their Delta Amex even without flying as frequently as traditional qualification would require. Call 1.855.203.2961 for your specific card's MQD waiver thresholds and your current spending progress.

The credit card strategy is most effective when combined with moderate flying. A traveler who earns $8,000 in MQDs from flights and receives a $2,000 MQD boost from card spending reaches Gold at $10,000 total. Without the card, they would need to fly $2,000 more in base fares. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent calculates the optimal combination of flying and card spending for your Medallion qualification goal.

What Is the Status Match and Challenge Process?

Delta occasionally offers status matches or status challenges to members of competitor airline elite programs who want to switch to Delta. A status match grants equivalent Medallion status based on your existing elite status with another airline. A status challenge grants temporary Medallion status with a requirement to earn a specified number of MQDs within a challenge period to keep the status permanently. Check delta.com or call 1.855.203.2961 to inquire about current status match or

challenge availability, as these programs are not always running.

Status match offers vary over time and are not guaranteed to be available when you inquire. When available, they typically require proof of elite status with the competing airline such as a screenshot of your membership page showing your tier. Call 1.855.203.2961 and ask specifically: "Is Delta currently offering a status match or challenge from [your current airline program]?" The agent confirms availability and guides you through the application process.

How Do You Track Your Medallion Progress?

Track your Medallion qualification progress at delta.com under your SkyMiles account dashboard or in the Fly Delta app. The Medallion tracker displays your current MQDs earned, the threshold for each tier, and how much more you need to qualify. The tracker updates within 72 hours after each completed flight. Credit card MQD contributions update monthly when your card issuer reports spending. Call 1.855.203.2961 if your tracker shows incorrect progress or if a recent flight's MQDs have not posted within 72 hours.

Set up quarterly check-ins with your Medallion tracker to assess whether you are on pace for your target tier. If you are behind midyear, you can accelerate through additional flights, a credit card spending push, or booking higher-fare flights for the remaining months. If you are ahead, you may be within reach of the next tier. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent provides a precise assessment of your qualification pace and recommendations for the remaining months.

What Happens If You Fall Short of Medallion Qualification?

If you do not reach the MQD threshold by December 31, you do not earn or retain Medallion status for the following year. Any MQDs earned during the current year do not carry over to the next year. Qualification resets to zero on January 1. If you are close to a tier as year-end approaches, evaluate whether additional flights or spending can push you over the threshold. Sometimes a single additional trip or a burst of credit card spending in December makes the difference. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent can calculate exactly how much more you need before year-end.

If you fall short of your current tier but qualify for a lower tier, you receive the lower tier's benefits. For example, if you had Platinum last year but only earned enough for Gold this year, you receive Gold status. There is no penalty for downgrading. You simply receive the tier you qualified for based on the current year's activity. Call 1.855.203.2961 and discuss year-end qualification strategies before the December 31 deadline.

Can You Buy Medallion Status?

Delta does not sell Medallion status directly. Status must be earned through MQD qualification from flights and card spending. However, Delta occasionally offers accelerator promotions that boost MQD

earning for a limited period, effectively making status easier to earn during the promotional window. Check delta.com for current promotions or call 1.855.203.2961 to ask about any active MQD accelerator offers. Some promotions offer double or triple MQD earning on specific routes or during specific periods.

The closest approximation to "buying" status is using a Delta Reserve American Express card with very high annual spending that waives the MQD requirement. Spending $250,000+ on the Reserve card in a year can qualify for Diamond status without the traditional flight requirement. This path is realistic only for very high spenders. Call 1.855.203.2961 for your specific card's status qualification thresholds based on annual spending.

How Do You Maintain Medallion Status Year After Year?

Maintaining Medallion status requires re-qualifying each calendar year by meeting the MQD threshold again. There is no automatic rollover or lifetime status option at standard tiers. The key to consistent re-qualification is building Delta flying and card spending into your annual routine at a level that naturally meets the threshold. For Gold at $10,000 MQDs, this means approximately 15-20 round-trips at $500-700 average fare or a combination of flying and credit card spending. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent can help you plan a sustainable annual qualification strategy.

Loyalty to Delta's network is the most natural path to consistent status. Choosing Delta whenever possible for work and personal travel, concentrating your flying rather than splitting across airlines, and using a Delta Amex card for daily spending creates a virtuous cycle where status is maintained almost automatically. Call 1.855.203.2961 and discuss your travel patterns for personalized maintenance strategy advice.

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SkyMiles Program Overview

Medallion Tier	MQDs Required	Key Benefits	Phone Priority
General Member	$0 (free to join)	Earn/redeem miles, no expiration	Standard queue call 1.855.203.2961
Silver Medallion	$5,000 MQDs (waivable)	Free 1st bag, priority boarding, 40% bonus	Slightly faster queue
Gold Medallion	$10,000 MQDs	Free 1st+2nd bag, Sky Priority, upgrades	Priority queue 10-15 min

Platinum Medallion	$15,000 MQDs	Choice Benefits, partner lounge, upgrades	Priority queue 5-10 min
Diamond Medallion	$20,000 MQDs	Top upgrades, lounge, Choice Benefits x2	Dedicated line under 5 min
ConciergeKey (invite only)	By invitation only	Personal concierge, top of every list	Dedicated agent instant

How Does Delta SkyMiles Compare to Other Loyalty Programs?

Feature	Delta SkyMiles	American AAdvantage	United MileagePlus	Southwest Rapid Rewards	Alaska Mileage Plan	JetBlue TrueBlue
Miles expire?	No never	No	No	24-month inactivity	No	No
Earning model	Revenue based	Revenue based	Revenue based	Revenue based	Distance + revenue	Points per dollar
Alliance	SkyTeam	Oneworld	Star Alliance	None	Oneworld	None
Elite tiers	Silver, Gold, Plat, Diamond	Gold, Plat, ExPlat	Silver, Gold, Plat, 1K	A-List, A-List Pref	MVP, Gold, 75K	Mosaic
Free bags (elite)	Silver+: 1st bag	Gold+: 1st bag	Silver+: 1st bag	All: 2 free bags	MVP+: 1st bag	Mosaic: 1st bag
Upgrade model	Complimentary by status	Complimentary by status	Complimentary by status	No cabin classes	Complimentary by status	Complimentary (Mosaic)

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People Also Ask

Q: How does the Delta SkyMiles program work?

SkyMiles is Delta's free loyalty program. Earn miles by flying Delta and SkyTeam partners, using Delta credit cards, shopping through SkyMiles partners, and dining at participating restaurants. Redeem miles for flights, upgrades, and partner rewards. Miles never expire. Earn enough Medallion Qualification Dollars and you unlock elite Medallion status with premium benefits. Join free at delta.com or call 1.855.203.2961.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How do you join Delta SkyMiles?

Join free at delta.com/skymiles in 2 minutes or call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent creates your account during the call. You need your name, email, address, and date of birth. Your SkyMiles number is issued instantly. Start earning miles on your next flight by adding the number to your booking. Membership is free with no annual fee. Call 1.855.203.2961 if you need help enrolling.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Do Delta SkyMiles expire?

No, Delta SkyMiles never expire regardless of account activity. Your miles balance is permanent even if you do not fly or earn miles for years. This is a major advantage over some competitor programs that expire miles after periods of inactivity. Your miles are safe indefinitely. Call 1.855.203.2961 if your balance appears incorrect.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How do you earn Delta SkyMiles?

Earn miles by flying Delta (5x miles per dollar spent on flights), using Delta SkyMiles American Express cards (1-3x miles per dollar on purchases), shopping through SkyMiles Shopping portal, dining at SkyMiles Dining restaurants, renting cars and staying at hotel partners, and flying SkyTeam partner airlines. Call 1.855.203.2961 for personalized earning strategy advice.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What are the Delta Medallion status levels?

Four tiers: Silver ($5,000 MQDs), Gold ($10,000), Platinum ($15,000), and Diamond ($20,000) plus invitation-only ConciergeKey. Benefits increase with each tier: free bags, upgrades, lounge access, priority service, and dedicated phone support when calling 1.855.203.2961. Diamond members connect to agents in under 5 minutes. Call 1.855.203.2961 and enter your SkyMiles number for status-appropriate routing.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How do you use SkyMiles for flights?

Book award flights at delta.com under "Use Miles" or call 1.855.203.2961 for partner airline awards. Domestic economy starts at approximately 5,000-12,500 miles one-way. International business class starts at approximately 50,000 miles. Dynamic pricing means flexible dates unlock the lowest mileage costs. Call 1.855.203.2961 for the broadest award search including SkyTeam partners.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Is Delta SkyMiles worth it?

Yes. The program is free to join, miles never expire, and earning opportunities extend far beyond flying through credit cards, shopping, and dining. For frequent Delta flyers, Medallion status provides tangible benefits including free bags ($70-160 per round trip saved), complimentary upgrades, and priority customer service when calling 1.855.203.2961. Call 1.855.203.2961 for program enrollment.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What credit card earns the most Delta SkyMiles?

The Delta SkyMiles Reserve American Express earns 3x miles on Delta purchases and 1x on everything else, plus free first and second checked bags. The Delta Platinum Amex earns 3x on Delta and hotels, 2x on restaurants. The Delta Gold Amex earns 2x on Delta, restaurants, and groceries. All waive the first checked bag fee. Call 1.855.203.2961 for guidance on which card fits your spending patterns.

Read our complete guide for more details >

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Join SkyMiles?

A: Free at delta.com or call 1.855.203.2961. Instant enrollment. No annual fee. Start earning on next flight.

Q: Miles expire?

A: No. SkyMiles never expire. Balance is permanent regardless of activity. Call 1.855.203.2961 if balance seems wrong.

Q: Earn miles?

A: Fly Delta (5x/dollar), credit cards (1-3x), shopping, dining, partners. Call 1.855.203.2961 for strategy advice.

Q: Medallion tiers?

A: Silver ($5K), Gold ($10K), Platinum ($15K), Diamond ($20K MQDs). Call 1.855.203.2961 for status tracking.

Q: Use miles?

A: Book at delta.com "Use Miles" or call 1.855.203.2961 for partner awards. No phone booking fee.

Q: Best card?

A: Reserve: 3x Delta + free 2 bags. Platinum: 3x Delta + hotels. Gold: 2x + free 1 bag. Call 1.855.203.2961.

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> How Do You Earn Delta SkyMiles Faster?

> What Are the Delta Medallion Status Tiers and Benefits?

> How Do You Reach Delta Medallion Status?

> What Is the Best Way to Use Delta SkyMiles?

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Written by Travel Policy Research Team | Reviewed by Senior Aviation Editor

Sources: delta.com, U.S. DOT

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